

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 8, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 17 through 25 and 47 through 52 are currently pending in the application. All claims stand rejected, but are indicated as appearing to be allowable. Applicants have amended claims 17 and 52. Reconsideration of the application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Submission of Formal Drawings

The substitute drawings filed on April 12, 2002 were stated to be unacceptable in the Office Action. Enclosed as Appendix A are corrected formal drawings, including FIGS. 1 through 26. Approval of the formal drawings is respectfully requested, and applicants respectfully submit no further action is required on this point.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action requests Applicants provide a corrected Information Disclosure Statement (“IDS”). A corrected IDS is filed contemporaneously with this Amendment. Applicants respectfully submit no further action is required on this point.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 17 through 25 and 47 through 52 stand rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The Office Action states that “it is unclear if the second nucleic acid and/or gene product thereof must be from a endosymbiont cellular organelle or if the second nucleic acid and/or gene product thereof may be any second nucleic acid and/or gene product from the organism.” Applicants have amended independent claim 17 to clarify this point. Claims 18-25 and 47-52 depend from claim 17. Applicants respectfully submit these claims are definite and request they be allowed.

Claim 52 was further rejected as allegedly indefinite with respect to the language “mononuclear sell.” Applicants have amended claim 52 to correct this typographical error and request it be allowed.

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Enclosed as Appendix A are clear, legible formal drawings, including FIGS. 1 through 26. Approval of the formal drawings is respectfully requested.